

California Building Code
State Fire Marshal Code Adoption Project
Working Group No. 2 – B Occupancies
Thursday, September 8, 2005

Location: Orange County Fire Authority
Attendance: Ian MacDonald
Laura Blaul
Dan Bak
Stuart Tom
Christina Jameson
Ken Kraus
Steve Ikkanda
Dave Dodge
Absent: Paul Armstrong

Stuart initiated the meeting by giving a brief summary of the previous day's conference call involving the SFM's office and the "Core Advisory Group".

Christina briefed the group regarding a short conference call between herself, Stuart, and Dennis Richardson. The primary issue of discussion was regarding Section 101.3.1 of the CBC, related to applicability of SFM amendments. Of particular concern was the question: "Can SFM introduce amendments to the code that will affect occupancies outside of its statutory authority?" ... For example, can SFM introduce an amendment related to height & area that would affect B occupancies?? After considerable discussion, the group concluded that SFM has no authority to amend the code in a manner that will affect occupancies outside of SFM's authority.

- Joe Garcia was called regarding this subject. He researched the matter & called back to confirm the group's determination that SFM can only amend the code in a manner that affects occupancies that SFM has authority over, and amendments for which SFM has statutory authority over all occupancies (for example sprinklers).

The group discussed the value of considering an amendment regarding height & area (even though it would not affect B occupancies) to benefit the remaining 13 working groups. The general consensus was that the group should consider such an amendment.

Laura reminded Stuart to contact the Tri-Chapters organization in Northern California to have them consider forming a working group to handle Chapter 10-Exiting.

The group refocused on the 4 areas identified during the first working group meeting, to determine whether amendments should be formulated. The 4 areas previously identified were:

- 1) Exterior wall protection and opening protection/limitations

- a. Group determined that while the IBC is slightly more liberal than current CBC, it does not warrant an SFM amendment. The group recommends that no action be taken at this time, but suggests that the issue be monitored
- 2) Ventilation (minimum of 6 air changes per hour) for exempt quantities of Class I, II, or IIIA liquids.
 - a. Group determined that air change issue is responsible for a significant occurrence of fires.
 - b. IBC refers to IMC which is not going to be adopted..
 - c. Group recommends that an amendment be adopted by SFM to ensure that a minimum of 6 air changes per hour be provided when Class I, II, or IIIA liquids are present, even in small quantities.
 - d. Group recommends that this issue be pursued for a change in the model code.
 - e. Group recommends that the Working Groups responsible for F, M & S occupancies examine IBC 1203.1 to determine if reference to IMC (instead of UMC) is going to be an issue.
- 3) Ignition source clearance 18" above ground
 - a. Group determined that this is a safety issue which warrants an amendment.
 - b. Steve agreed to look into this matter further, to determine whether there is a statutory requirement that the ignition source be at least 18" above the floor. – This would simplify the amendment because it would not need to be justified under the 9-point criteria.

Stan Nishimura returned a call to the working group. He also confirmed that SFM amendments only apply to occupancies for which SFM has authority. He was specifically asked, could SFM introduce an amendment to the height & area provisions that would affect B occupancies. Answer- No. Stan concluded by discussing efforts that have already been taken to identify all references to the IMC in the IBC and to determine whether adoption of the CMC is going to cause significant problems.

Kevin Scott was called to participate in discussion of height & area. He recommended NOT making any changes to the tables for various reasons. Instead, he recommended amending both the sprinkler modifier (IBC 506.3) and the area determination equation (IBC 506.4). He gave a brief history of the development of the height & area table, which did not come from BOCA/SBCCI/UBC. He discussed BCMC, and the previous concerns regarding creating legal-nonconforming buildings. The net result, was adoption of the most liberal height & area provisions. Kevin recommended the following:

- IBC 506.3
 - Change $I_s=300$ to $I_s=200$ and change $I_s=200$ to $I_s=100$
 - Eliminate last sentence, that enables the addition to be taken for sprinklers in addition to IBC 504.2
- IBC 506.4
 - Change item 1 to refer to multi-story buildings
 - Eliminate item 2 (3-story triple area)

- Eliminate exception # 2
- IBC 504.2
 - Eliminate middle sentence, that enables the addition to be taken for sprinklers in addition to IBC 506.3
 - Eliminate additional height in feet (20-feet increase for sprinklers) throughout this section.

The Group concluded discussion regarding height & area and determined that changes in the multipliers would resolve height and area issues for all Working Groups. Furthermore, the Group determined that the amendments were necessary for the SFM to consider because buildings having the heights and areas prescribed under the IBC have never been allowed under any of the three previous model codes, and there is no basis for evaluating public safety.

Stuart volunteered to email strike-out/underline versions of the height & area amendments to the Group for review & comment.

Laura volunteered to email strike-out/underline versions of the flammable liquid ventilation & ignition source amendments to the Group for review & comment.

Once all Working Group 2 members have had an opportunity to review & amend the amendments, the Group will attempt to justify the amendments under the 9-point criteria. The Group determined that the next meeting can probably be accomplished via conference call. Additionally, after experiencing the resort-like environment of the OCFA digs, anything else will be a let down. – Stuart and Christina agreed that Camarillo would be nice.